

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 5-6, 8, 12 and 18 and amended claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13-16, 19-21. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 7, 9-11, 13-17 and 19-22 are presently pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant has amended claims 13, 15-16, 19 and 21 to place the claims into independent form. Applicant has amended claims 2-4, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 20 to change the dependency of the claims and for consistency with the claims from which they now depend. Applicant submits that the amendments do not add any new matter.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 5-7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,491,314) in view of Kittle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,005,913) as set forth in the Decision on Appeal dated August 31, 2007. See 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b). Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 5-6 and amended claims 2-3 and 7 to depend from claim 13 which the Examiner has previously indicated recites allowable subject matter. Applicant therefore submits that the rejection of remaining claims 2-3 and 7 has been rendered moot and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5, 7-12, 14, 18 AND 20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14, 18 and 20 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,491,314) in view of Pitzer (U.S.

Patent No. 3,009,747) as set forth in the Decision on Appeal dated August 31, 2007. See 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b). Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 18 and amended claims 2-4, 7, 9-11, 14 and 20 to depend from one of claims 13, 15-17, 19 and 21-22 which the Examiner has previously indicated recite allowable subject matter. Applicant therefore submits that the rejection of remaining claims 2-4, 7, 9-11, 14 and 20 has been rendered moot and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

V. CONCLUSION

For the above cited reasons, all of the claims presently pending in this application are believed to be allowable. If the Examiner has any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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